

Lara J. Hansen, Ph.D.
Chief Scientist and Executive Director
EcoAdapt

Lara thinks climate change is everybody's problem and she wishes someone would bother to do something about it. Her desire for action led her to co-create EcoAdapt with a team of similarly inclined individuals in 2008. She is the author of dozens of publications on climate change adaptation, as well as the innovator of adaptation tools and approaches for developing site appropriate adaptation strategies, such as an engaged stakeholder process for developing custom adaptation strategies (first known as Climate Camp; now known as [Awareness to Action Workshops](#), which has trained thousands of participants from all 50 states). She also led the creation the Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange ([www.CAKEx.org](#)) and the National Adaptation Forum ([http://www.nationaladaptationforum.org](#))—two cornerstones of our national ability to learn about and share climate adaptation knowledge and lessons.

She has served on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is a Switzer Environmental Fellow and a United States Environmental Protection Agency Bronze Medalist. Prior to creating EcoAdapt, she was the Chief Climate Change Scientist for the World Wildlife Fund, leading their international Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program, from 2001-2008, and a Research Ecologist with the USEPA from 1998-2001. She earned her Ph.D. at the University of California, Davis in Ecology and her B.A. in Biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Because she's an optimist (an admittedly harder task everyday) she assumes we'll get our acts together on climate change--who would want the alternative.